Ms. Steplight’s 5th Grade Science Syllabus

2017-2018

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Course Goal:

The purpose of this course is to guide you in discovering the scientist within you as you experience the world of science all around you. For the purposes of this class, a scientist is one who discovers, sorts, measures, wonders, records, collects, asks questions, experiments, invents, observes, and classifies.

Course Overview:

This is a survey course that will expose you to a broad range of science topics. The focus will not be on memorization as much as it will be on the comprehension of topics through experiential learning.

Space Unit: Objects and Relationships

Physics Unit: Energy, Forces, and Motion

Earth Unit: Hydro, Atmosphere, Weather

Life Unit: Cells to Organisms

Essential Questions:

Throughout the course of the year, we will become well-acquainted with the following questions?

1. What are the steps to the scientific method?
2. How do they apply to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Elevate: Taking Study Skills to the Next LevelTM

Many students struggle when they transition from middle school into high school, not because they don’t have subject matter knowledge. They struggle because they do not know how to study. I developed a curriculum that helps students in three areas: note-taking, test preparation, and academic planning. You will be learning and developing these skills throughout the course of our science studies.

Classroom Motto & Rules:

RESPECT FOR SELF AND OTHERS

This is our classroom motto. Respect for self is revealed through your attitude, your actions, and your inactions. Respect for others is revealed through your treatment of people, their belongings, their ideas, and the environment around you.

In addition to living out the classroom motto daily, you will be expected to adhere to the following rules:

1. Be on time, on task, and prepared to learn EVERYDAY.
2. RESPECT the teacher, the classroom, your classmates, and yourself.
3. BE RESPONSIBLE for your own learning.
4. CLEAN UP after yourself and your peers.

These rules are in addition to ALL of the rules in the Student Handbook.

Ninja Time:

The first to ten minutes of class is a time of absolute silence to refocus energy. Students are expected to take their seats quietly, get out their materials, write the homework in their planner and await further instructions.

What You Will Need for Every Class:

* Your blue binder with loose-leaf paper
* Your blue spiral notebook
* Your blue folder
* Your school planner
* Your metric ruler
* Your index cards
* Your blue or black ink pen
* Your pencils
* Your colored pencils

Homework Policy:

We will adhere to the Washington Latin policy, which states:

The point of daily homework is to advance a student's learning through independent practice and/or exploration. Homework and classwork are often intertwined and homework provides the catalyst for a day's lesson. We will therefore not accept late homework; students who turn in completed homework on the day it is due (the degree of completion the province of the teacher) will receive full credit; students who fail to turn in homework on the day it is due will not receive any credit for that daily assignment. Individual teachers will grant exceptions to this policy for illness, significant family events, or anything else a teacher deems worthy of exception.

*Long-term projects*

Because we take seriously our responsibility to teach students how to manage their time and plan for a long-term project, we take a different approach with anything that requires more than one or two days to complete. Students who complete a long-term project on time are eligible to receive full credit; students who hand in a long-term project one day late can receive no better than a B, and students who turn in a long-term project two days late can receive no better than a C. At the end of the two-day period, teachers may decide to give students partial credit for the work they have done on a project or they may decide to give a student a failing grade. Individual teachers will determine any exceptions for illness, significant family events, etc.

Grading Policy:

Tests (unit/big assessment) 25%

Quizzes (small assessment) 25%

Class Participation 15%

Classwork 25%

Homework 10%

Quizzes – Quizzes will be given frequently in an effort to keep you engaged with the materials. They will be both announced and unannounced.

Class Participation – Class participation is key to your academic success. That is why it is a part of your grade. For this class, participation includes being prepared for class and actively engaging in discussions, investigations, and other activities.

***Ms. Steplight’s Syllabus***

***Parent Signature Sheet***

Parent/Guardian I look forward to partnering with you in the education of your child. It is important to me that you be well informed and an active participant in the educational experience your son or daughter.

To ensure that parents/guardians and students are aware of the guidelines and expectations for this class, please sign, date and **return this page only** with your student. Students receive homework **credit** for returning this sheet. I appreciate your time and cooperation. **DUE Wednesday, August 30, 2017**.

Student Name

Please Print: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the following information:

Father / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mother / Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Best number to reach you? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_